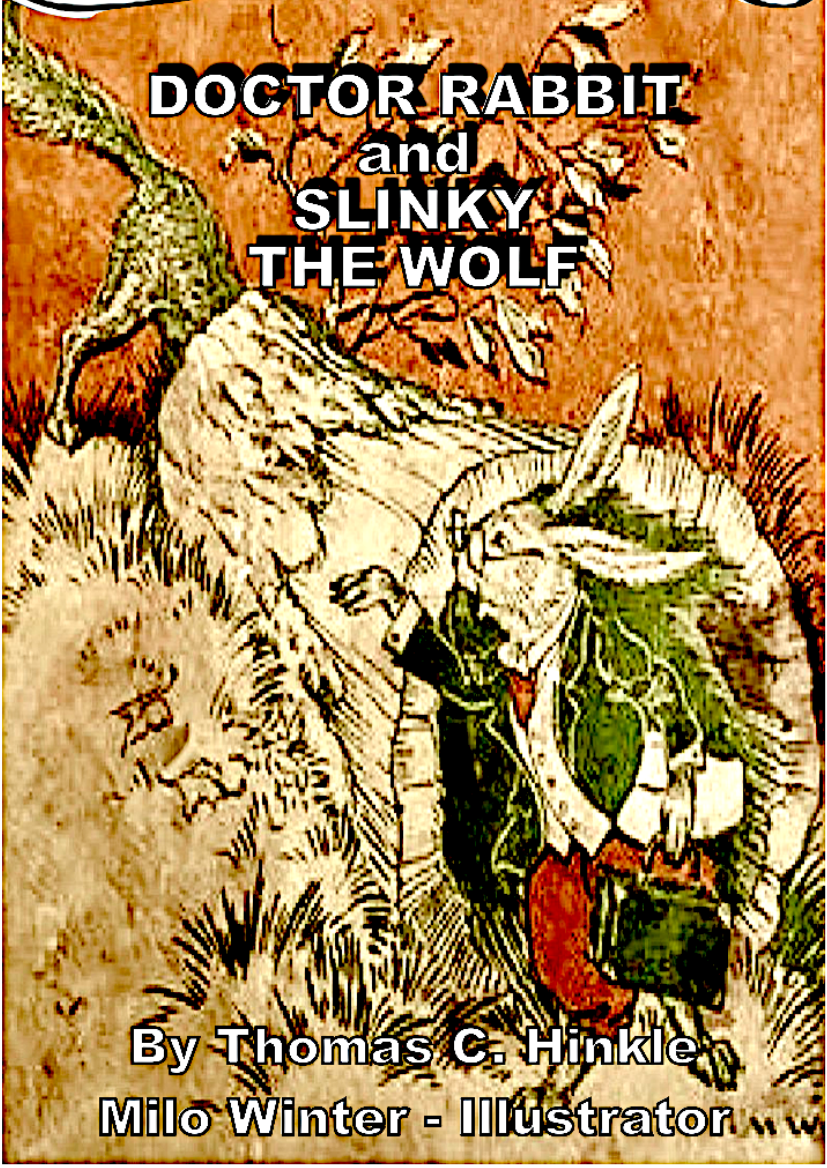
Gunston Classics

DOCTOR RABBIT and SLINKY THE WOLF



By Thomas C. Hinkle

Milo Winter - Illustrator

Gunston & The Book Bunnies

The Gunston Trust

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DOCTOR RABBIT and SLINKY THE WOLF

By Thomas C. Hinkle
Milo Winter - Illustrator
1920

Second Edition

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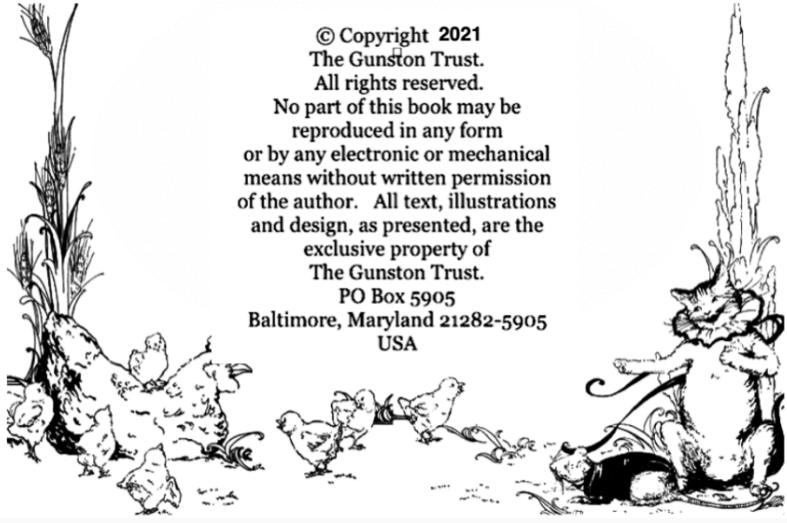

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Milo Winter - Illustrations

He snapped with his terrible teeth

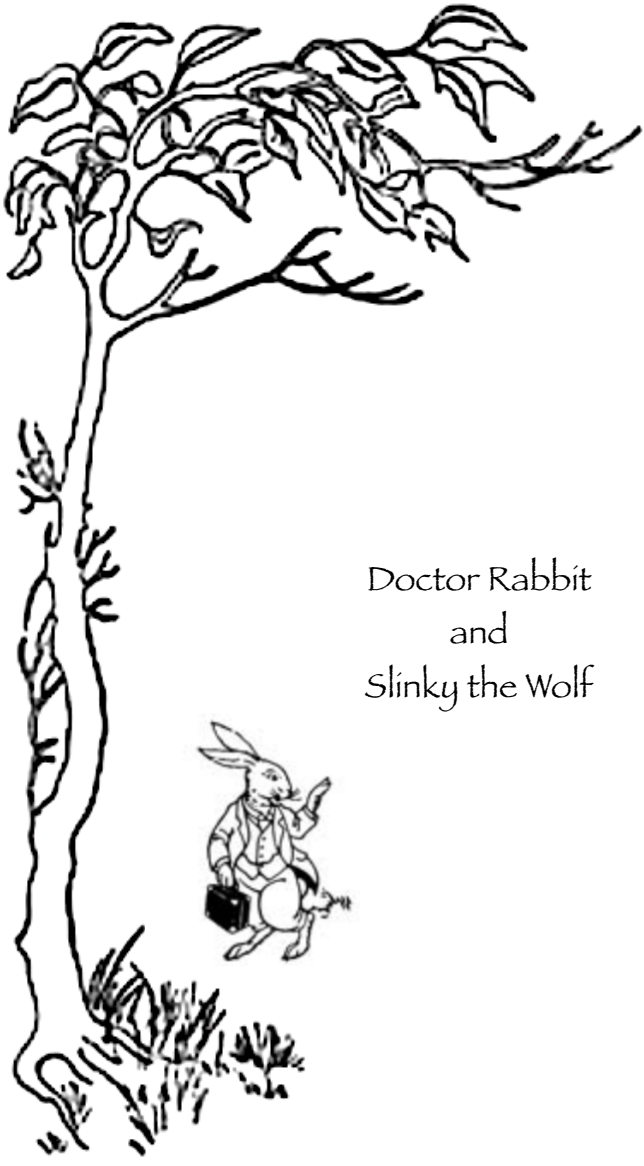
"Snappy! Snappy! Doctor Rabbit called

"A wolf! exclaimed Red Top

"Run for your life, Paddy-paws"

"Doctor Rabbit is in the hollow log"

They stood and watched the raft



Doctor Rabbit and Slinky the Wolf

He snapped with his terrible teeth

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DOCTOR RABBIT and SLINKY THE BLACK WOLF

DOCTOR RABBIT HEARS A TERRIBLE VOICE

It was night in the Big Green Woods, and Doctor Rabit was in his tree listening. He was trembling, too, for he had just heard the howl of a big, wild animal. It was the most terrible voice Doctor Rabbit had ever heard in the Big Green Woods.

Doctor Rabbit was sure he knew whose voice it was, because once, long before, he had heard that howl away off in the Green Mountains. Then Doctor Rabbit had seen the animal too, and my, how it had frightened him!

It had frightened him so that he had left the Green Mountains and traveled and traveled until at last he had reached the Big Green Woods.

Yes, and Doctor Rabbit had hoped he would never hear that terrible voice again. But he had heard it- this very night- and it was only a little way off, and up the Murmuring Brook.

While Doctor Rabbit listened from his tree he heard the howl again, and this time it was nearer still.

From the little door high up in his big tree Doctor Rabbit had been listening. He drew his head back and said in a frightened whisper:

"Goodness gracious! Sakes alive! I know that animal--yes, I certainly do. It's either Slinky the Black Wolf or one of his gray brothers that has come down from the Green Mountains."

What Doctor Rabbit meant was that he knew it was really a gray wolf, though now and then one of them is black. The wolf that Doctor Rabbit had seen far away in the Green Mountains was a black wolf, and such a sneaky one that doctor Rabbit had named him Slinky the Black Wolf.

Doctor Rabbit kept very still and looked through his little door out into the woods. The beautiful round, yellow moon was shining very bright, and any creature that happened to be moving about in the open space might be seen clearly.

The voice did not sound again for some time, and Doctor Rabbit was about to shut and lock his little door when he saw something dark stealing along toward his tree. Nearer

and still nearer it came, until it stood right at Doctor Rabbit's door, at the foot of the tree.

The moon shone very brightly on the big, fierce-looking animal, and instantly Doctor Rabbit saw who it was. It was old Slinky Wolf himself. Doctor Rabbit scarcely dared to breathe as he looked down on old Slinky.

Slinky the Wolf sniffed at Doctor Rabbit's door, then he scratched it and bit it with his sharp teeth, trying hard to open it. But he couldn't, and he said:

"Well, well, I certainly smell rabbit. I'm just sure a rabbit lives here. I'll just keep my eyes on this particular tree. A fat, juicy rabbit would taste pretty fine right now! And I'll get him a little later, of course I will. He doesn't even dream I'm in these woods - how could he? Surly, he's out somewhere in the woods now. I'll just slip away and watch for him, and Ill catch him while he is running for his tree."

Slinky chuckled to himself as he slipped away. "I'll not howl any more tonight," he said. "No, I'll just keep still and get some fine meals in the way of fat rabbits.

Old Slinky was certainly mighty happy as he sneaked away into the woods, and he hummed this little song:

"I'm the big black wolf from the
Mountains Green,
I've wandered far away,
But I've found at last the
Big Green Woods,
And here I'm going to stay
I'll feast on the birds and rabbits all,
I'll prowl the whole night long,
And while I make a meal of them,
I'll laugh and sing my song!"

2

DOCTOR RABBIT WARNS STUBBY WOODCHUCK

Doctor Rabbit watched from his tree until the black wolf passed out of sight in the moonlIt woods. Doctor Rabbit was thinking about that terrible song Slinky had sung as much as he was thinking about Slinky himself.

All of a sudden he got angry. Yes, indeed, he did. He was frightened, too, of course; but there was something so horrid in that song of Slinky's that Doctor Rabbit just

shook his foot in the direction slinky had taken and said:

"You old villain, you! So you'll crush our bones, will you? You'll gobble us all down and then laugh about it, will you, old Slinky? Well, I guess we'll see about that, sir. We'll see about that. I guess you dont know me very well, but you'll find out. You'll find out that I'm going to have something to say about that. Indeed you will, if you are a wolf. I can plan quite as well as you can, and I'll show you very soon."

When Doctor Rabbit had said this he felt better. And although he was still frightened, he was braver than he had been before, for now he had made up his mind that he would do something, and that's always a splendid thing to do. If Doctor Rabbit had just kept on listening from his tree, and shivering and dreading the danger, he would have been very miserable indeed. But he just made up his mind he could plan as well as Slinky the Wolf - in fact, Doctor Rabbit knew he could, and he

decided that he would. That's why he felt bolder, for making up your mind to do something works that way every time.

And doctor Rabbit could think better now, too.

"I am sure," he said, "that many of my friends have heard that terrible howl and will be on the watch, but I'm afraid they haven't 'ALL' heard. Some of them may be caught napping. Just like as not, Stubby Woodchuck is sound asleep this very minute. He's always so thoughtless, anyway. I know I ought to slip over to his house and warn him this very night.

Doctor Rabbit looked out into the woods and listened. It seemed to him that he could see something moving out near a big thicket, but after a while he decided it was only a stump that he saw.

"Yes, I ought to go and warn Stubby this very night," Doctor Rabbit repeated, and very softly he crept down to the foot of his big tree, which you remember was hollow, and

opened his back door. He looked out and listened. The round, yellow moon was shining peacefully. It was a beautiful night.

Now it was some distance to Stubby's house, but Doctor Rabbiit knew the way perfectly. He crept out and closed his back door softly. Then he hopped away through the woods. He kept in the shadows of the thickets and vines and stopped now and then to listen.

But all he could hear was the gentle singsong of the Murmuring Brook. By and by Doctor Rabbit reached Stubby Woodchuck's house in the stump. He tapped on Stubby's door and called softly, "Stubby! Stubby! Are you in?"

From within came a sleepy voice saying. "Oh, I'm so sleepy. Who are you?"

It's Doctor Rabbit!" his kind friend said. "Open the door, quick, Stubby!"

Well, sir, you should have seen Stubby get out of bed and open that door when he found out who it was. He had it open in a jiffy.

"Goodness, Doctor Rabbit!" Stubby exclaimed. "I had just been eaten my super, and I was sound asleep. What's the trouble? Has old Ki-yi Coyote come back into the woods?"

"No, Stubby," said Doctor Rabbit, "It's not Ki-yi, but old Slinky the Black Wolf, who had come down from the Green Mountains. He's in the Big Green Woods this very minute. I heard his terrible voice tonight, and, what's more, I saw him, Stubby. I saw him at the foot of my tree!"

"Gracious!" exclaimed Stubby, and he was so surprised and alarmed that he just stood and stared at Doctor Rabbit. Then he said, "Well, I do declare! Is it Old Slinky the Wolf that you've told us about? You say you actually saw him, Doctor Rabbit?"

"Indeed I did," replied Doctor Rabbit. "I saw him as plainly as I see you. He was at the foot of my tree, and I looked right down on him. Well, I shall have to be going now. And whatever you do, Stubby Woodchuck, remember you must keep your eyes open." Then, without another word, Doctor Rabbit slipped through the door and was soon out of sight in the moonlit woods.

Stubby peeped out of his door until he could no longer see Doctor Rabbit, then he exclaimed, "My goodness! I should say I will keep my eyes open! I'll keep my eyes and ears both open until morning, and then I'll get up on my stump and take a long look around and try to get sight of that terrible creature."

3
YAPPY DISCOVERED SLINKY THE BLACK WOLF

The next morning, just after the sun came up, Stubby Woodchuck got up on his stump just in time to see something very interesting and surprising. A little way off in the woods Stubby saw Jim Crow eating something he had found among the leaves and dead twigs. Then all of a sudden Stubby saw Slinky the Black Wolf make a quick spring and almost get Jim Crow.

But just in the nick of time Jim Crow spread his wings and lit on a limb overhead.

Slinky sat down on the ground and looked up with a smile at Jim Crow and said:

"Why, good morning, Jim Crow! I just sprang at you for a surprise; you understood, I'm sure."

"Indeed I understood, and you can't deceive me one bit." Jim Crow scolded, angrily. "You are a bad, bad wolf, and a sneak! sneak! sneak! And Jim Crow made such a noise with his scolding and his "sneak! sneak! sneak" that Farmer Roe's big dog Yappy, who was hunting along the edge of the Big Green woods, heard him and came tearing into the woods to see what it was all about.

Yappy came running so fast Slinky was surprised, and had run for all he was worth. In his haste he sprang over a big log and fell down. Just then Yappy saw him, and barked and bayed loudly. Yappy was surprised and angry. He shouted as he ran after Slinky, "Hoo-oo-oo, hoo-oo-oo! A great black wolf! A real black wolf! Hoo-oo-oo, hoo-oo-oo!"

Now to tell the truth, Yappy knew he must be careful when he saw a real wolf. Yes, Yappy knew that even if he should catch Slinky there would be a terrible battle. But Yappy was brave, and he believed the Big Green Woods belong to him. Of course they didn't but Yappy honestly thought they did. And so he was terribly angry to find that Slinky the Black Wolf was in the woods. He raced after Slinky with all his might. If he could just catch him, he meant to snap and fight and drive him so far away he'd never show himself again. And, better still, Yappy meant to drive Slinky into a hole somewhere in the woods and then bark and bay until help came. That's what he meant to do as he ran after Slinky.

Doctor Rabbit, too, had heard Jim Crow shouting and calling someone a sneak, so he hurried right over to see who it was. He got there just in time to see Slinky fall down as he

sprang over a log and to see Yappy rush after Slinky.

"My," chuckled Doctor Rabbit to himself, "but this is interesting! I'll just follow and see if Yappy catches him! I hope he does, and I hope we get rid of Slinky for good."

As Doctor Rabbit ran through the woods Blue Jay saw him and called out, "Doctor Rabbit ! Doctor Rabbit! Did you see that terrible creature that went past here with Yappy Hound chasing Him?"

"Yes!" shouted Doctor Rabbit, but he was in too big a hurry to say more.

But Blue Jay was greatly excited and was bound to know. "Who was it? Who was it? he screamed.

"It was Slinky the Black Wolf!" Doctor Rabbit called back. "I can't talk now. I'm in a hurry to find out if Yappy catches him!"

And away went Doctor Rabbit as fast as he could. He could hear Yappy baying fiercely on Slinky's trail.

4
SNAPPY TURTLE SEES SOMETHING

Big dog Yappy was chasing Slinky the Black Wolf, and Doctor Rabbit was following to see what would happen.

By and by Dotor Rabbit saw Yappy running back and forth along the edge of the Murmuring Brook. He knew at once what the trouble was. Slinky had crossed the stream, and Yappy had lost the trail, because of course he couldn't smell it in the water.

Doctor Rabbit sat still for a moment and watched. Yappy hunted for sime time, but finally he gave it up and went home. Then

Doctor Rabbit thought of something. He thought of the Rocky Den, a little farther up the Murmuring Brook. It was in this part of the brook that Snappy Turtle had his home, so Doctor Rabbit said to himself:

"I'll just run up and see Snappy. Perhaps he saw what became of old Slinky. I shouldn't be a bit surprised if he did, for Snappy sees so many things he never mentions unless he's asked. Yes, Snappy sees a great many things. I'll go right off and see him."

And away Docotr Rabbit ran. No, the more he thought about it, the more Doctor Rabbit believed that old Slinky the Wolf was making his home in the Rocky Den. Of course it was true that Slinky might be found almost anywhere in the woods, so Doctor Rabbit hopped along very carefully. He kept a sharp watch in every direction.

When he came pretty close to the Rocky Den, Doctor Rabbit hid behind a large rock beside the Murmuring Brook. He looked

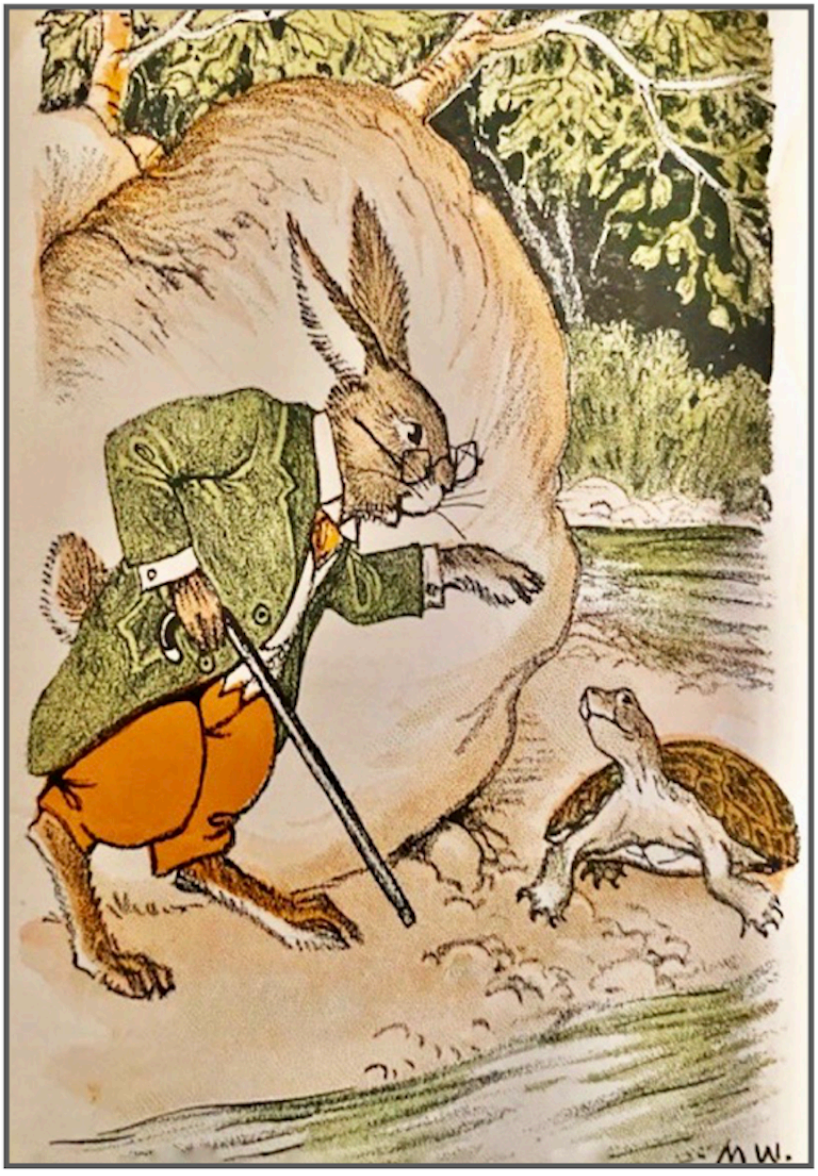
around for his little friend Snappy Turtle. Pretty soon he saw him come out of the water, poking his head far out from under his house. He crawled lazily along the bank, looking first one way, then the other, then stopped.

"Snappy! Snappy! " Doctor Rabbit called softly from behind the rock. "Come over here. I want to see you a minute!"

Snappy Turtle raised his head, and when he saw who it was he came slowly over toward the rock, chuckling as he came. "He! he! he!" he chuckled, as he crawled along. Nothing ever troubled Snappy very much.

You see, Snappy has such a strong, thick house on his back that he's pretty safe, and he knows it. "He! he! he!" Snappy chuckled and before Doctor Rabbit could speak Snappy said, "I'm glad you happened along, Doctor Rabbit.

I just wanted to tell you that you'll have to watch out now, because I saw a big black wolf a little while ago!"



"Snappy! Snappy!" Doctor Rabbit called.

"You did?" exclaimed Doctor Rabbit. That's just what I came to ask you about, Snappy. Where did you see him?"

"He! he! he!" chuckled Snappy again. "I thought you'd be interested. Why, I saw him crawl into the Rocky Den, there," and Snappy perked up his head and waved a funny paw toward the Den.

"Indeed!" exclaimed Doctor Rabbit. Then in a low voice he said, "Keep still, Snappy! Don't laugh out loud, or he may hear you. Now you don't mind him so much, because you have on such a tough, thick coat and you can plump into the water and get away. But look at my soft, thin coat, Snappy, and that of my little friends."

"He! he! he!" Snappy chuckled again. "Seems funny to me," he said.

"Yes," said Doctor Rabbit, "but look here, Snappy. Just suppose that terrible Slinky Wolf should happen to catch me and

make a meal of me - then what would you do if you got sick?

"My goodness!" exclaimed Snappy, and he remembered that only the day before he hadn't been feeling well. My sakes, Doctor Rabbit, I really hadn't thought of that! Well! well! Just say what you want me to do!"

It was Doctor Rabbit's turn to chuckle a little then. "I thought you'd see the serious side to this. Now Snappy," he said "tell me where Slinky went into the Rocky Den."

"He crawled into the hole you see right beside that little elm tree," replied Snappy. "I saw him as plain as day. He acted as if he had been running fast, and he was panting hard.

"I was in the shallow water at the edge of the brook, and about to come out on the sand when I saw him, so I just poked my head up out of the water and lay still and watched and listened, He hurried around a great deal trying to get into one hole and then another, and, as I said, he was panting hard. I thought

he must have been running from someone. But he found he could get in easily by the little tree, and I heard him say, 'I'll always go in at this hole. This tree will be a good mark for me. I can see it a long way off, and so I can hide in a hurry when I have to."

5
RAY COON IS FRIGHTENED

Doctor Rabbit was not at all surprised when Snappy Turtle waved his funny little paw at the den in the rocks and said he saw Slinky the Black Wolf crawl in there.

"Very well, Snappy," Doctor Rabbit said behind the big rock where he had hidden. "Now, you keep your eyes wide open. I may want to find out some more things from you. And remember, Snappy! If old Slinky should make a meal of me, you'd have no one to make you well if you got sick!"

"Indeed, I'll remember that, Doctor Rabbit," replied Snappy. "I'll stay right around this part of the brook. If I see old Slinky do anything, or hear him say anything. I'll tell you."

"That's fine of you, Snappy," Doctor Rabbit said. "And now," he went on. "I must hurry away, for I certainly have my hands full!"

"What are you going to do? Asked Snappy as Doctor Rabbit started away.

Doctor Rabbit came back and whispered softly in Snappy's ear, "Sh! I'm going to get rid of Slinky the Wolf!"

And the next moment Doctor Rabbit was hopping back through the woods. As he hopped along he said to himself: "I think old Slinky will stay in the Rocky Den and hide during. the day. But tonight he'll surely come out. I must plan to get rid of him right away."

A little farther on Doctor Rabbit had a dreadful scare. A big log was in his way, and instead of going around it he hopped over it.

And he landed right on the back of some animal! My, but Doctor Rabbit was frightened! He jumped away with all his might. But the animal yelped with fright, too; for it was only Doctor Rabbit's friend Ray Coon.

"You frightened me dreadfully," Doctor Rabbit scolded when he saw who it was.

"Well, you about scared me stiff!" said Ray Coon. "Why did you jump on my back?"

"Ha! ha! ha!" How Doctor Rabbit did laugh then! "why," he said, "I never dreamed you were behind that log, Ray. I was afraid I had jumped right on to Old Slinky the Black Wolf. Gracious! what if it had been Slinky?"

Ray Coon had been unusually hungry this morning, and he had been eating some crickets he found under the log. But now he forgot all about his hunger, His eyes opened wide with fear at the very name of Slinky the Black Wolf. For Ray Coon also knew of this big fierce wolf.

"That's so," Ray Coon said, looking all around. "And did you know, Doctor Rabbit, that old Slinky was in the woods last night? That is, I think he was, for I heard a howl that sounded very much like his."

"Indeed I did!" said Doctor Rabbit coming closer. "And what's more, Ray Coon, I saw him, and I've just found out that he's hiding in the Rocky Den up by the Murmuring Brook!"

"He is!" eclaimed Ray Coon, growing still more frightened, so that his voice trembled. "How do you know he's living up there, Doctor Rabbit?" he asked.

"Because," replied Doctor Rabbit, "I heard him and saw him last night. And this morning I saw Farmer Roe's Yappy running after him, and trailing him along the Murmuring Brook. Besides, I have just left Snappy Turtle who saw Slinky go into the Den. Yes, sir, just a little while ago. And old Slinky's in there this very minute, and tonight we've got to watch

out. He may be sneaking around looking for every one of us!"

"My!" exclaimed Ray Coon, growing still more frightened every minute. "And so he's come right into the Big Green Woods to stay! Goodness sakes, Doctor Rabbit! I must be going. I must go home and warn Mrs. Coon and the children to stay in the tree and not go out for a single minute!

As Ray Coon started away Doctor Rabbit called after him, "Did you tell O. Possum and Mandy Possum you heard old Slinky howling last night?"

"O. Possum heard him," Ray Coon called back hurriedly. "We were standing together when old Slinky howled, but O. Possum said he guessed the wolf didn't want him!"

"Indeed!" exclaimed Doctor Rabbit, in great disgust at O. Possum's thoughtlessness. "That's just the way with O. Possum. He's as careless as careless can be. You tell him when you go past his place," he went on, "that

Slinky the Black Wolf is not at all particular whom he makes a meal of. And you tell O. Possum he's better watch out every minute. But better yet, you tell Mandy Possum. She'll take care of the matter. She'll see that O. Possum does exactly what she tells him to, just as he always does. Now you just tell Mandy!"

"All right, Doctor Rabbit," said Ray Coon, as he hurried away, "I'll tell Mandy this minute, then I'll hurry home and tell my own family."

Ray Coon did not walk. He ran as fast as his legs would carry him. And Doctor Rabbit ran in another direction. There was certainly a great deal to think about now, and for Doctor Rabbit there was a great deal to do.

Well, Doctor Rabit had not gone far into the woods when he almost bumped into O. Possum.

"Hi, there Doctor Rabbit!" cried O. Possum.

But Doctor Rabbit was so excited he didn't even take time to say "Good morning."

"What are you doing out here, O. Possum?" he demanded

"Who, me?" said O. Possum. "Why I'm just out looking for a few bugs, or for most anthing I can eat. I got pretty hungry even if it was in the daytime. I didn't have much luck last night."

"Well," said Doctor Rabbit, very much excited, "even if you are hungry, O. Possum, you'd better run home just as fast as you can. Slinky the Black Wolf may get you any minute if you stay out here!"

"Oh," said O. Possum, as if he didn't think so. "That's so, I did hear him howl last night, but I thought he wouldn't want me, because my hide's pretty tough, you know. You don't think he'd try to make a meal of me, do you?"

"Why, of course he would, O. Possum! Of course he would!" said Doctor Rabbit.

"Old Slinky isn't at all particular who he makes a meal of, especially if he's good and hungry. You can't run very fast, either, Brother Possum. And for you to play 'possum' under Slinky's terribe nose and teeth would be mightly dangerous. You'd better hurry home. Yes, sir, you'd better hurry home right this very minute!

Now O. Possum can't think very fast. It takes him a long time to get anything into his head. So he yawned and said, "Ho, hum! I'm pretty sleepy, Doctor Rabbit. I generally am in the daytime you know. Ho, hum! Well, maybe you're right. Maybe I'd better be going as you say. But I've got to have just one or two more bugs first. Yes, I've just got to have a few more before I go. And, anyway, you know I can climb one of these little trees around here if I have to!"

But Doctor Rabbit was sure O. Possum had better not wait.

"O. Possum," he said, "I tell you, you'd better not fool around out here another minute. You talk about climbing one of these little trees. Old Slinky might come so fast you wouldn't have time to climb a tree or do anything else,." And Doctor Rabbit listened with both ears to see if he could hear anything moving in the woods. He was getting more and more scared for O. Possum every minute. "Think of that, O. Possum," he went on. "What if Slinky came at you so fast you hadn't enough time to climb a tree?"

But just then O. Possum found another nice, bit, fat, juicy bug. He half shut his eyes because it did taste so good, and he said,

"My but that was a fine bug, Doctor Rabbit! You don't care much about them, do you? But of course, It's every person to his own taste. Some of us like bugs and some of us like grass, and that's the way it goes. Well, maybe I'd better be getting home. But just let me show you how I can climb a tree. I can climb

it in no time, Doctor Rabbit. Just watch- I'll show you what I'd do if I saw old Slinky coming after me!"

And O. Possum started toward the little tree, crying excitedly, "This is what I'd do, Doctor Rabbit. Looky here! Watch me!"

Well, sir, it certainly was a funny sight to see O.Possum climb that little tree. You see, he couldn't climb fast, but he thought he could, and he bragged about it a great deal as he worked his way up very slowly. He kept shouting, "This is what I'd do, Doctor Rabbit if that bad old Slinky came after me. This is exactly what I'd do. Ha! ha! ha!" he laughed. "I guess you forgot that I can climb a tree, and anyway, you didn't know I could climb this fast when I really wanted to! Ha! ha! ha! Guess you're a little surprised arn't you Doctor Rabbit? It's pretty fine to climb like this!"

All this time O.Possum really was climbing, of course, but he was climbing very slowly. That's what made it so funny. But it

was a mighty good thing that he took a notion to climb that little tree just when he did, and that he kept on going. It was the best thing O.Possum every did. If he hadn't climbed up just when he did, it would have been pretty bad for O. Possum.

Doctoer Rabbit sat watching O.Possum as he slowly climbed the little tree. He was very polite, but he just couldn't keep from laughing when O.Possum bragged about how fast he could climb, because O.Possum couldn't climb fast at all. He only thougt he could.

But all of a sudden Doctor Rabbit had a terrible fright. Old Slinky the Black Wolf came tearing through the woods right at him. Yes, sir, he almost grabbed Doctor Rabbit before Doctor Rabbit could move. My! It was the closest shave Doctor Rabbit ever had in his entire life. You see, Doctor Rabbit was so busy looking at O.Possum and laughing at him that just for a minute he forgot all about Slinky

the Wolf. Well sir, Slinky was so close that when he snapped with his terrible teeth he got a bit of Doctor Rabbit's fluffy tail! Yes, sir, Slinky almost caught Doctor Rabbit.

But you never saw a rabbit jump quicker than Doctor Rabbit did. Snap! Snap! went Slinky's jaws again. But Doctor Rabbit jumped with all his might to one side. Snap! Snap! and again Slinky almost caught him. But with his next jump Doctor Rabbit reached the underbrush, and soon got away.

Old Slinky didn't wait. He just whirled around and ran straight for O.Possum! You see, O. Possum was really only a little way up the tree. And he was so surprised at seeing Slinky that he just stayed where he was and blinked his small black possum eyes and watched Old Slinky almost catch Doctor Rabbit.

And so O.Possum was not at all ready for Slinky when he came tearing back after him. Slinky is very swift, and was to the little

tree in no time. He jumped for O. Possum, and he almost jerked him down! Yes, sir! As sure as anything Slinky almost caught O.Possum. His teeth slipped, or he would have caught him. O.Possum happened to be just high enough so that Slinky got him, only by the tip of his tail. Now as you may know, O.Possum has not got any hair on his tail, and Slinky had only caught the tip of it, so he just couldn't keep hold.

"Oh, mercy!" O.Possum shouted, and he scrambled a little higher. Slinky jumped for him again, but saw it was no use because he could not jump high enough. So he sat down to wait.

O.Possum looked at the end of his tail. It wan't hurt much-just scratched a little by Slinky's teeth. But O.Possum was very angry. He looked down at Slinky and Said:

"Oh, you needn't sit there and wait for me, Old Slinky. I can stay up here all day and all night, and can stay a week if you stay down

there! You needn't think you're going to get another chance at me. You might as well go along and tend to your own business!"

And Slinky the Black Wolf stood up and grinned and said:

"Well, I guess it's about time I was going. I may see you again, Mr Possum, when you feel more friendly!"

And Slinky loped off through the woods. O.Possum watched from the tree until old Slinky was quite a way off in the woods, and then he climber down. Doctor Rabbit came running out of the underbrush and up to O.Possum. O.Possum was pretty angry.

Just look at my tail, Doctor Rabbit!" he said. "And just think of that old snarler talking about seeing me when I feel more friendly! Why, I'm plumb disgusted with him!

Doctor Rabbit couldn't keep for laughing. "It's nothing, O.Possum," he said. "I lost some of my tail too, but that's nothing. Now, let's hurry to your house. I've got to see

that you get there right now. I don't want you to be caught out this way again. Let's hurry now! By and by I'll tend to old Slinky! Can't you move a little faster, Brother Possum? And don't worry! Just as sure as you're here, old Slinky is going to be about the most surprised wolf that ever lived, and it will be pretty soon too!

6
SLINKY THE BLACK WOLF ALMOST HAS RABBIT FOR BREAKFAST

When Doctor Rabbit left Ray Coon he went at once to the blue-grass patch under the big sycamore tree and ate his breakfast. No matter what there is to be done, you see, we must eat to keep strong.

When Doctor Rabbit had finished his breakfast he felt strong enough to be a match for any old wolf. "Now," he said, "I'll hurry all over the Big Green Woods and see how many

of my little friends know about this new danger that threatens us."

Then away ran Doctor Rabbit through the Big Green Woods. He sprang over logs and darted around thickets and trees as easily as you walk through your own back yard. And every second while he ran Doctor Rabbit was watching for the least little sign of Slinky the Black Wolf. And all the time Doctor Rabbit kept thinking, "Snappy saw Slinky crawl into the Rocky Den, but at any moment Slinky may get hungry and decide to come out. Yes! He may be out right now, and any minute I might run right into him."

Well, it certainly was a mighty good thing that Doctor Rabbit was thinking that very thing. I'm sure that is why he ran so fast. Anyway, it was his speed that save him. Hunger had gotten the best of Slinky the Wolf, and he had come out of his Den. And just as Doctor Rabbit ran past a big stump he almost ran right into Slinky.

Slinky had been hiding behind that stump, waiting for Doctor Rabbit. He made a tremendous rush as Doctor Rabbit went by, and if it had not been for Doctor Rabbit's high speed, he surely would have been caught. But as it was, Slinky snapped twice and missed both times though he was so close, Doctor Rabbit felt his hot breath.

Slinky, of course felt sure of a rabbit breakfast, but he was disappointed. When Doctor Rabbit found himself still free, he raced like the wind before Slinky, who came tearing on with all his might. Doctor Rabbit ran, dodging in every direction.

What made matters worse for Doctor Rabbit was that there was not a single briar patch in the this part of the woods. No, there was not even a friendly brush pile where he might be safe for a little while.

There seemed to be nothing but big trees in every direction and now and then a log lying on the ground. A little clump of wild

gooseberry bushes offered some hope, and Doctor Rabbit raced for it, but he merely managed to run around it once, and then had to speed away again. Over logs and around trees ran Doctor Rabbit to escape the fierce jaws of Slinky, but Slinky sprang over the logs and ran around the trees so quickly that there seemed no escape this way.

Then, just when things looked worst for Doctor Rabbit, he suddenly thought of something. It was a hollow log that he knew about. It had an opening in one end large enough for him to get into. But the opening was so small Slinky could never squeeze himself in, no matter how hard he tried.

So doctor Rabbit raced toward this log, and by good luck reached it. He ran into the opening in the end just as Slinky, right behind him, snapped at his heels.

Old black Slinky thrust his nose into the opening, while Doctor Rabbit crept to the center of the log and lay there panting for

breath. He could see old Slinky's terrible eyes shining in at the end of the log, but he knew he was safe now, so he breathed easier. There was an opening at the other end of the log, too-but it was a smaller opening. Slinky ran around and thrust his sharp nose into that, but Doctor Rabbit only lay still and rested. Then he bagan to wonder how he could get out of the log if Slinky stayed there a long time.

7

DOCTOR RABBIT FOOLS SLINKY THE BLACK WOLF

While Slinky the Wolf ws poking his long nose into one end of the log and then running around and poking it into the other end, Doctor Rabbit was lying in the center of the log and resting. And he was thinking, too. For no matter how tired Doctor Rabbit is, he never stops thinking. He doesn't dare. Knew very well the danger of running from either end of the log, even if Slinky could not be see at all. And of course it would be still more foolish for him to scramble toward

one end while Slinky was looking in at the other. Sor Slinky would dash around and seize him just as he came out.

So Doctor Rabbit did the wise thing. He was frightened, but he simply lay still in the enter of the log and thought. Then he had an idea. It was when Slinky was not looking in at either end of the log, but stood to one side and panted and growled a little. Doctor Rabbit remembered that there was a small opening that led up through the rotting log. He remembered too, that on e side of th elog rested against a little clump of bushes.

Several times Slinky the Black Wolf looked in at one end of the log and then went around and sat down beside the log where there were no bushes. Once when he did this Doct Rabbit scratched very carefully into the rooten wood. It was almost as soft as dirt, and Doctor Rabbit believed he could dig right through the rotten wood and into the clump of bushes.

Once more Slinky stuck his long, sharp nose into the log. Then he went around and poked his nose in at the other end. He moved away again and sat down on the side where there were no bushes and said:

"Oh well, I've got him, no matter which end of the log he runs from. I'll just wait. He'll get good and hungry pretty soon, and he'll think he can slip out. Then I'll have rabbit for breakfast!

Doctor Rabbit heard every word, but he kept still. He was thinkin gso hard about his new scheme that he didn't care to answer. And besides, he wanted old Slinky to think that all he had said was true.

While Slinky the Wolf was talking to himself and chuckling over what he thought was his very good fortune, Doctor Rabbit began to dig in the rotten wood again. Carefully but steadily he worked, and finally - yes finally-he dug right through, and a little stream of daylight came in through the ushes

and into the rotten log on that side. Doctor Rabbit sat still and listened. Once more Slinky poked his nose in at one end of the log, and this time he said.

"You might as well come on out, you big, fat rabbit. I've got you, anyway. I'll wait here all day and all night, if necessary. You might as well make a dash now as any time. Of course you might get away. So make a dash for it! What do you say, fat rabbit?"

All of a sudden Doctor Rabbit had another idea, so he answered:

"Yes, you are right, old Slinky. That is you are right when you say that no matter which end of this log I run from you could catch me. But I'll tell you what I will do: As long as you expect to catch me anyway, I suppose you won't mind giving me a little chance. And so, Slinky, if you will just take your old ugly nose out of the end of the log and go around to that side where you were, and slowly count to twenty-five - now mind

you count slowly- then I'll come out of this log. What do you say?'

"I certainly will! cried Slinky the Wolf eagerly. "I certainly will!"

And as he trotted around the log to wait and count he laughingly said, "I'll have that silly rabbit before he know it. I'm so hungry I can hardly wait until he comes out.

Just before he began to count, Slinky said, "I don't know which end he will run from, of course, but I'll stand right at the center of the log; he can't get away from me, anyway."

And then Slinky began to count very slowly, "One, two, three four, five six seven -- and so on. And that gave Doctor Rabbit the very chance he wanted. Just as soon as Slinky began counting, Doctor Rabbit dug for all he was worth, and in no time he was out of that log and in the clump of bushes beside it. But he did not run yet. No, he crept quickly through the thicket and straight across into another thicket, and still a little farther on into

another thicket, so that he actually got quite a long distance off while Slinky was still counting. Slinky was looking first at one end of the log and then at the other, expecting Doctor Rabbit to pop out any second. He didn't dream of course, that Doctor Rabbit could get out of the log unless he ran from one end or the other.

Doctor Rabbit was so far away now that he knew he was quite safe, so he sat and watched Slinky the Wolf counting and laughed and laughed to himself.

"Twenty-five! shouted Slinky finally, and started to spring as if he expected a race, but nothing happened. Slinky was terribly angry. He ran around and thrust his nose in at one end of the log and shouted, "Why don't you come out?"

Then he looked again and saw light streaming in at one side of the log - and he saw that there was no Doctor Rabbit there!

8

DOCTOR RABBIT WINS A HELPER

To Slinky's surprise he heard Doctor Rabbit calling from a distance, "I did come out! Good-bye, Slinky Wolf! I must be going!" And Doctor Rabbit ran farther away into the Big Green Woods. He was safe again.

He hurried into the woods, where there were a great many tangled vines and briars. In this part of the woods the trees were very tall, and huge grape vines grew way up into the tops of trees. Sometimes these wild grapevines grew over a cluster of small trees, forming a beautiful house of green. And the

woods smelled so fresh and sweet that Doctor Rabbit was very happy to be there.

"I'll just stick pretty close to this part of the woods, where I'll not be so far from home," Doctor Rabbit said as he hopped along. "Yes," he continued, "I shall have to stay where there are lots of vines and briars until I can think of a plan to get rid of Slinky Wolf. My, but I had a narrow escape! He certainly is dangerous. He certainly is!"

Just then Doctor Rabbit heard a noise. He kept still and listened. He heard it again, "Charr! charr! charr! sounded the voice of a bird. This was followed by the sound of drumming on wood.

"It's Red Top the Woodpecker!" exclaimed Doctor Rabbit. "Just the friend I want to see!" And away he ran in the direction of sounds.

Sure enough, he came upon Red Top, drummng with his bill upon a great dead tree. Red Top was clinging to the trunk of the tree

"A Wolf!" exclaimed Red Top.

with his feet, and with his sharp bill he kept up a drum-drumming on the dead tree. He would peck at the tree for a time, and the then stop for a moment to sound his loud, whining "cha-r-r! cha-r-r!charr!"

"Good morning, Red Top!" Doctor Rabbit called up, pleasantly.

Red Top the Woodpecker looked down, then flew to the ground.

"Good morning!" he greeted Doctor Rabbit. "I'm mighty glad to see you, Doctor Rabbit. In fact, I was just thinking of hunting you up. Mrs. Red Top is not feeling at all well today. Can you give her some medicine?"

"To be sure, I can," said Doctor Rabbit instantly. "She's been eating too many insects and grubs, I suppose. I always know just what she needs and I'll give you something for her right away. Then will you do something for me in return?

"Charr! charr!" shouted Red Top. I'll do it, Doctor Rabbit; I'll do it! But give me the medicine, so I can take it to Mrs. Red Top.

Doctor Rabbit gave him the medicine, and he flew away with it immediately. He gave it to Mrs. Red Top, and as soon as she swallowed it she knew it was the kind that always cured her, and she said she felt better right away.

"Now," she contnued to Red Top, "you go right this minute and do whatever the good Doctor tells you to do. He is certainly the very best friend we have in the Big Green Woods, and we should do anything he asks of us."

This was always the way Mrs. Red Top talked to Mr. Red Top, so he was used to it. He flew away at once, and presently he lighted on the ground again near Doctor Rabbit.

"Mrs. Red Top began feeling better just as soon as she had swallowed your medicine, Doctor Rabbit," said Red Top. "Now just tell

me what you want me to do, and I shall certainly do it!"

"Very well," replied Doctor Rabbit, "I want you to do something that will help me in a scheme to get rid of old Slinky the Black Wolf. I don't know whether you know it, but Slinky has come down from the Green Mountains and is in the Big Green Woods this minute!"

"A wolf!" exclaimed Red Top, in a frightened voice; and he flew up on a little bush so that he could look around. "A wolf! he exclaimed again. "Gracious! Old Ki-yi Coyote was bad enough. Do you really know that there is a big wolf in our woods, Doctor Rabbit?"

"Yes!" replied Doctor Rabbit, lowering his voice. "Speak softly, or he may hear you. He may be hiding near us right now. I know he's in our woods, Red Top. I've just had a dreadful experience with him. I came near being caught! Ugh!" Doctor Rabbit shuddered at the thought. "So you see," he

went on, "we are all in great danger. Now, will you do what I want you to?"

"Yes-why-yes," Red Top stammered. "That is, I will if I don't have to get too near that dreadful creature!"

"Listen!" Doctor Rabbit whispered. "I want you first to fly up into a tree and see whether you can see anything of old Slinky."

So Red Top flew up into a tree and looked around, but he came back and said he could not see any sign of Slinky the Black Wolf. Then Doctor Rabbit said, "Come very close, Red Top. I want to whisper something to you!"

9
BEGINNING TO FOOL SLINKY THE BLACK WOLF

Red top the Woodpecker listened to what Doctor Rabbit said, and then flew straight to the Rocky Den. You see, he did just exactly what Doctor Rabbit told hm to do. He flew down on the bank quite near the Rocky Den and looked searchingly for Snappy playing in some mud at the edge of the Murmuring Brook.

Snappy was laughing to himself and padding around in the mud and having a fine

time. Red Top flew over and perched on a near-by stone and said, "Good morning, Snappy."

Snappy looked slowly around in that funny, lazy way he has, then he went right on padding in the mud. Finally he said:

"Good morning Red Top. Come and play in the mud with me; it's fine!

Of course Red Top the Woodpecker would not have played in that mud for anything. He would have soiled his feather coat. But Snappy didn't think about that. Besides, Red Top had been sent on very important business. So he said, "No, thank you, Snappy I really can't." then he spoke very low and said:

"The fact is, Doctor Rabbit sent me over here to see if you have remembered to keep a close watch on the Rocky Den and he wants to know if you have seen Slinky the Black Wolf lately. Did Slinky come out again?"

"Yes, he did!" replied Snappy immediately. "He crawled out of that den a while ago and went off into the woods. But pretty soon he returned and crawled back in. Why, there he is right now!"

Snappy broke off suddenly. And sure enough, there was old Slinky with just his head showing. He was looking out of the Rocky Den into the Big Green Woods, just as if he saw something very interesting.

Red Top said softly to Snappy, "You keep very still now, Snappy! I'm going up close to Slinky the Wolf and talk to him. I'm going to say to him just what Doctor Rabbit told me to say. So you must keep very still and not disturb me. Play all you want to in the mud, but don't say a word!"

So Red Top the Woodpecker flew up to a limb of the little elm right over Slinky the Black Wolf and said, "Good morning, Slinky! I should think you'd be over in the Big Green

Woods after that big, fat rabbit that's caught in a hollow log and can't get out!

My, but Slinky was surprised! He looked up quickly, with greedy green eyes, at Red Top and oh, how he would have liked to snatch Red Top from that limb! But he couldn't jump so far of course, so he said very pleasantly:

"I think you must just be dreaming about a rabbit being stuck fast in a hollow log. But if there is a rabbit stuck fast, as you say, I suppose you happen to know just where the log and the rabbit are?

"Of course I do," replied Red Top. "And I'm not dreaming at all. Indeed I am not! Just suppose, " he continued "that you happened to be passing along in the woods, and suppose you came near a log, one with a big hole in one end and a little hole in the other; and suppose you heard a rabbit in the log yelling and shouting loudly that he was caught in there and couldn't get out. Suppose he was

shouting, 'Somebody help me out! I've been stuck fast in here ever so long. Help me out, somebody, or I shall starve! Help me out! Help me out! Help me out!" What would you do then, Slinky?"

Well, sir, Slinky came out of the Rocky Den in a hurry. He was interested, there was no doubt about it. The fact was that Slinky had been lying in the Den and thinking about how much he would like to catch a rabbit just when Red Top the Woodpecker flew up. My, how hungry Slinky was for that rabbit! It made his mouth water as Red Top talked.

Slinky came out of the Den, sat down, looked up at Red Top and said, "I suppose I might walk through the woods, just to satisfy my curiosity. Yes, if you'll tell me just where that rabbit is stuck fast in the log. I think I shall go out that way, just to take a look into the log."

"Very well, I'll tell you," said Red Top, "only you must promise that you will go at once."

" I will," agreed Slinky. "Yes, I'll go right away. Now where is that log?"

And Slinky got up and walked around and around. He could scarcely wait until he was told. Yes, sir! Slinky was certainly anxious to be going after that rabbit.

10
THE HOLLOW LOG

Doctor Rabbit had whispered a lot of things to Red Top the Woodpecker, and told him about the hollow log. It was, in fact, just the kind of log Doctor Rabbit wanted, and he had not only seen it a number of times but he had been inside of it and knew just what it was like.

This log was not very far from the Deep River. The hole in the log was pretty large at one end. In fact, it was large enough for Slinky the Wolf to crawl into. Doctor Rabbit, however, could go clear through the log, and

he had done so a number of times. But it happened that the small hole was just large enough for him to squeeze through.

After Doctor Rabbit had talked to Red Top he ran as fast as he could to this log. When he reached the log, he got some moss and stopped up one end of it so that it looked quite dark from the large opening in the other end. It looked as if there was but one hole in the log. Then Doctor Rabbit went in at the big end of log and crawled through until he came to the moss he had put into the small hole. He pushed the moss out and hopped out himself, just to make sure his plan would work. It did and Doctor Rabbit was much pleased.

"It will work splendidly," he said. "I'm sure it will. Now I must tell Ray Coon and Mandy Possum and O.Possum and Jack Rabbit what my scheme is, for I shall need their help."

But for a little while Doctor Rabbit stood still. He stood still ad chuckled. "I've got the best scheme in the world," he said. He

looked for a moment at a chunk of wood that lay near by. He picked up one end of it, then dropped it and said, "It's just the right size, and with the help of O.Possum, Mandy and Ray Coon and Jack Rabbit I can fix it just as I want it. I'll have Cheepy Chipmunk and Stubby Woodchuck come over too. Yes, I shall need a good deal of help, but we can do it, I know we can."

And Doctor Rabbit hopped away in high spirits. It was a beautiful day in the Big Green Woods, and he hoped all of his little friends would be able to help him that night, for it was likely the night would also be just fine.

As Doctor Rabbit hopped along and thought of his fine scheme, he stopped suddenly and listened. Yes, sir! Someone in a nearby thicket was groaning as if in pain.

Doctor Rabbit crept up to the thicket very carefully. When he reached the edge of it he looked in, and there in among the green leaves, but on the ground, he recognized his

little friend Chatty Red Squirrel. Doctor Rabbit hurried right into the thicket.

' "I am so gld to see you," Chatty groaned. "There's a locust tree thorn sticking in my back, and I can't get it out. Please pull it out, and then I'll tell you how it happened"

"Ouch!" Chatty said as Doctor Rabbit pulled the big thorn out. Doctor Rabbit put some salve on the sore place, and at once Chatty felt much better.

"I was playing up in the big walnut tree just overhead," Chatty explained. "I sprang from a limb and jumped for aother, but at the same instant I saw that terrible black wolf, and I was so frightened I missed the limb I jumped for and down I tumbled into this thicket and right on to that thorn you pulled from my back. It was lucky for me that the wolf happened to be looking in another direction. But I lay still in the thicket. The thorn hurt so much I couldn't run,anyway, so he didn't get

me. My, I wish we could get rid of that terrible creature somehow!" Chatty said.

"Never fear about that, Chatty," Doctor Rabbit chuckled. "Never fear, for you will see just how I get rid of him. You can't help much, of course for your back will be almost too sore. But anyway, you can come and see the fun.

"Indeed, I'll be glad to," said Chatty. "And I feel so much better now with that thorn out and salve on my back that I'm sure I can help a little. And I should like ever so much to try, Doctor Rabbit. When do you plan to get rid of him?"

"This very night! Doctor Rabbit whispered softly. "And remember this, Chatty, we must not speak of it to each other above a whisper. If old Slinky should happen to hear the least little word, he might suspect something and spoil the whole scheme. Sure enough, I'm going to lay a trap for him, and shall tell all our little friends about it. I shall

want them to come and help me. But I'm whispering it to them and telling them just as I am telling you that we must not let even one word of it be heard by Slinky the Wolf. Red Top is over at the Rocky Den now. I sent him there to try to talk with old Slinky.

"What's Red Top talking about to that terrible wolf, Doctor Rabbit?" asked Chatty.

"Listen!" exclaimed Doctor Rabbit, and he looked through the leafy thicket in every direction to see whether anyone was near. No one was in sight, and so Doctor Rabbit whispered, "Listen, Chatty! This is what I am going to do." And he told him.

11

PADDY-PAWS HAS A SCARE

Chatty Red Squirrel was certainly interested when Doctor Rabbit told him how he meant to get rid of Slinky the Black Wolf. And Chatty said he felt so much better after getting that thorn out of his back that he would help Doctor Rabbit right away by going and telling some of their friends.

As Chatty started away, Doctor Rabbit said, "Remember Chatty, be very, very careful about speaking low. That's pretty hard for you as a rule, you know. But in this case you simply must make yourself whisper. Old

Slinky is very clever, and the least hint to him would be enought to spoil everything, and he would laugh and laugh in his harsh voice. And what is worse, he might make a meal of every one of us! Speak very low, Chatty, and look all around before you speak at all."

"I will, Doctor Rabbit," replied Chatty. "I'll be careful enough to suit even you. You can depend on me. And with that, Chatty Red Squirrel climbed up into a big tree that stood near by. He ran out nearly to the end of a long limb, then sprang across to the limb of another tree, and thus running through the tree tops he quickly passed out of sight.

Chatty Red Squirrel was going first to tell Jim Crow. Then there was Blue Jay, and Whistling Red Bird, and several others that Doctor Rabbit wanted to send word to, so they could be present when the scheme was carried out.

Just as Doctor Rabbit started away he thought of some one else. Someone that he

wanted to help him. It was Paddy-paws the Prarie Dog. Paddy-paws lived out on the Wide Prairie, not far from the Big Green Woods. Doctor Rabit hurried right over to see this little friend, and there he found Paddy-paws sitting up on his mound of dirt close to his hole. Paddy-paws was about to dart into his hole when he saw the underbrush move at the edge of the woods, but when he saw it was Doctor Rabbit he was delighted.

"Good day to you, Doctor Rabbit!" Paddy-paws called out laughingly. "I was about to run into my hole," he continued, "because I thought that old black wolf that I saw a while ago might be sneaking through the woods after me!"

"That's just what I came to see you about, Paddy-paws," Doctor Rabbit said, hopping up close to Paddy-paws. "And I am glad that you know Slinky the Black Wolf has come to live in the woods. The fact is, I've made up my mind to get rid of old Slinky this

very night, and I want you to help me. Of course you are not very big, but you can help me a little anyway. You'll do all you can, won't you?"

"Indeed I'll do everythiong I possibly can, Doctor," said Paddy-paws, and his eyes flashed with anger as he thought about mean old Slinky Wolf. "Yes indeed, I'll help you," he continued, indeed, I'll help you.

"But of course I don't want to be alone," he ended a little nervously.

"You will not be alone, Paddy-paws," Doctor Rabbit told his little friend. "You will be with me, and we'll all do the same thing when I get ready. You just keep a close lookout for the rest of the day. You'll have to keep closer to your hole than ever."

"I will," said Paddy-paws, "And if you'll watch for me just a moment I'll run out and get some fresh grass. You see, I have it all eaten close to my hole."

So Doctor Rabbit sat up on the little dirt mound and watched. Paddy-paws as he ran a little way and buried his nose in the grass and ate every so fast, because he was hungry. He was just getting such a fine meal, when all of a sudden he felt cold chills run over him, for Doctor Rabbit called, "Run for your life, Paddy-paws! Run! Slinky's coming!"

But before Doctor Rabbit had said two words Paddy-paws was running for his hole. And sure enough old Slinky the Wolf was rushing from the woods straight toward the hole. But Paddy-paws reached it just in time, and whisked down out of sight. Skinky snapped at him, but missed him. Then Slinky raced like the wind after Doctor Rabbit, but he was too late, for Doctor Rabbit was already close to the woods. He ran in among the trees and then under some dense thickets,

"Run for your life, Paddy-paws!"

and although Slinky came tearing in, and although he jumped high to see Doctor Rabbit, he did not see him at all. Slinky finally gave it up, and as he walked away Doctor Rabbit heard him say,

"I missed that fat rabbit again, but tonight I'll catch him!"

But Doctor Rabbit just hid there in his briar patch and chuckled to himself.

"Yes, old Slinky Black Wolf, I'll see about that. Just you wait until tonight, old Slinky! Just you wait until tonight! And Doctor Rabbit chuckled and chuckled.

12
SLINKY THE BLACK WOLF PROWLS THROUGH THE WOODS

You remember Doctor Rabbit sent Red Top the Woodpecker over to the Rocky Den to talk to Slinky the Black Wolf. And, as you know Slinky was much interested when Red Top told him he found a rabbit that was caught fast in a log somewhere.

After they ahad talked a bit longer Red Top told Slinky that he believed he would not

tell him where the log was until some time in the night.

"If I don't come to tell you myself," red top promised, "I'l send Downy Screech Owl over to tell you. He likes the night better than I do. And you mark my word, sir - that big fat rabbit will be in that log just as sure as anything!"

then Red Top flew away. And it was then that Slinky went wandering off into the Vig Green Woods, and that's how he happened to chase Paddy-paws in to his hole.

Now when old Slinky missed getting. good meal he alwasys did the same thing - he started out to see what he could find next. We, that's just what he did now. He sneaked along through the woods in search of anuy small animal that might show itself.

"I'll just hunt around the woods until I catch two or three of these foolish creatures," Slinky chuckled. "Two or three of them will be enough to lst me until tonight. Then I'll slip ove

to the Rocky Den and have Red Top the Woodpecker tell me where that rabbit is fast in the log. Of course, I may find that log myself. I'll nose around in the woods, anyway, and take a good look into every hollow log I see."

So Slinky Wolf went along laughing and chuckling to himself. He was feeling pretty good, because he felt that he surely would get that rabbit. He did not know just how he would get him out of the log, but he felt that he would manage it somehow.

Now Slinky's eyes are very, very sharp, and there is not much that moves in the woods that he does not see. As he sneaked along listening and watching, he saw a long grass stem bend down to the ground, and he knew it was not the wind that made the grass stem bend, for the air was still. Three or four more grass stems bent down just like the first, and then Slinky saw a mouse put its head out of a little opening and look around. Already Slinky had crouched close to the ground, and when

the mouse poked its head out Slinky lay perfectly still- he didn't wink an eye or even curl his lips. The mouse did not see him, so it grew bolder and bolder. At last it started toward a stump, but quick as a flash Slinky sprang up and seized the mouse. It made just one small bite for old Slinky.

"That's pretty good!" Slinky said. "It make me think how very fine that rabbit will taste tonight. Now I must look around and see what else I can find!"

Slinky did not see anythin until he came to the edge of the Big Green Woods. The he saw a sight that made his mouth Water. Across a plowed field and in a barnyard he saw a great number of chickens, ducks and geese. Slinky hid himself at the edge of the woods and watched the flock for a long time. He hoped one of them would wander out toward the Big Green Woods. Once a hen started out in that direction but wandered back again. But finally the whole flock of

geese with their leader started slowly toward the woods and right towad the place where Slinky was hidden!

Slinky certainly did watch them with his greedy eyes. Nearer and nearer they came, until they ere more than halfway across the plowed field. But there they turned and started back again. Slinky stood up and looked quickly toward the house. He sawd no one around, and he decided to do a daring thing. Yes, he made up his mind that he would rush for those geese right in broad daylight! But almost at the same moment there wer two things that made Slinky change his mind. One was that he saw big dog Yappy running toward the woods on the trail of some animal. And another was that he saw Doctor Rabbit hopping along through the woods not far away. So he gave up the geese at once, and went sneaking along after Doctor Rabbit.

Now it happened that Doctor Rabbit was on his way to get a drink from a spring in a

fine little gorge he knew aout. Every now and then Doctor Rabbit went through this little gorge to get a drink of the clear spring water. But there was another reason why he went. There was a little lame cottontail who lived in a hole in the rocks right near the spring, and Doctor Rabbit like to call on him now and then to see how he was getting along.

The little lame cottontail always had to stick pretty close to his home, because he couldn't run very fast, but there was so much clover and green grass around the spring that he got along splendidly. But Doctor Rabbit wanted the little lame cottontail to know about Slinky the Wolf.

And so Doctor Rabbit hopped along until he reached the little gorge. As he started up toward the spring he almost forgot about old Slinky. Yes, sir and finally he did forgot all about Slinky. It was only for a minute, but Doctor Rabbit really did forget as he reached down to the little spring to take a drink.

13
DOCTOR RABBIT HAS A NARROW ESCAPE

When Doctor Rabbit reached down to take a drink from the little spring something very surprising happened.

Instead of keeping close behind Doctor Rabbit, Slinky had sneaked along the edge of the gorge. Near the spring was a rather high bank, and Slinky stood on this high bank, almost over Doctor Rabbit.

Suddenly Doctor Rabbit heard the little lame cottontail shout: "Jump for your life, Doctor Rabbit!"

And Doctor Rabbit did jump. He didn't wait to see why he should jump. He knew at once that he was in some great danger where he was, and that was enough. So he jumped and ran with all his might toward the little lame cottontail's home in the rocks.

And Doctor Rabbit was just in time to save his life, for slinky the Black Wolf had jumped and had landed square on the spot where Doctor Rabbit had stood while drinking at the spring. Yes, old Slinky jumped down from the bank, and if it had not been for Doctor Rabbit's friend, the little lame cottontail, it might have been the last of good Doctor Rabbit.

But before Slinky could catch his breath, Doctor Rabbit had run into the little lame cottontail's house and was safe. They both stood peeping out at Slinky for a time,

and neither of them spoke a waord. The Doctor Rabbit said - and he said it with a little laugh, too, because nothing ever troubles Doctor Rabbit very long - "Well, Little Friend cottontail, it was certainly a good thing you were watching that time. And the next time I come to the spring for a drink I'll be sure to look up at that bank before I reach down for a drink. Indeed I will! I'll make sure there's no enemy there!"

"I was about scared out of my wits," said the little lame cottontail, "but he didn't get you, anyway. Mu just look at him out there! Isn't he a terrible sneaking old creature!"

They both stood lookin g out at Slinky. He sniffed at the door for a time, then went down to the spring. As they watched him he lapped the water greedily. Then he moved back and yawned.

"Well," they heard him mutter to himself, with a laugh, "I surely came very near getting a good meal. Perhaps I shall have better luck

next time. There are a great many animals around these woods - no doubt there are chipmunks and woodchucks, as well as rabbits. I can surely catch a prairie hen now and then, too, in the grass near the woods. I've seen two or three pairs of them already. Yes, there are certainly lots of fine meals walking around here, and I'm sure I shall catch all I can eat. My! I can hardly wait to get that rabbit in the log tonight. I wonder how I shall get him out? But And Slinky went loping off down the gorge pretty fast. When he had gone so far they knew they were safe , Doctor Rabbit and the little lame cottontail came out and watched him.

The little lame cottontail said, "I wonder what he means by catching one of our little friends that's fast in a log. Goodness! Do you really suppose he knows of a cottontail that's fast somewhere in a log, Doctor Rabbit?"

14
DOCTOR RABBIT UNCOVERS A SHELL

Doctor Rabbit replied at once to the little lame cottontail's question.

"That's just what I was about to tell you," he said.

"Of course I wanted to see you anyway, but the truth is I have a very fine scheme for getting rid of old Slinky the Black Wolf. Yes, I have a plan to drive him clear away from the Big Green Woods. That hollow log that you heard him talking about has everything to do

with my scheme, too. But of course old Slinky would never dream of that!

"My!" exclaimd the little lame cottontail. "How in the world are you going to drive him away, Doctor Rabbit?

"Well," Doctor Rabbit chuckled, "I'm not exactly going to drive him away, to tell the truth. But I am going to get rid of him without driving him, and that's the funny part of it." And Doctor Rabbit laughed heartily. "Now, Friend Cottontail," he continued, "I'll tell you just how I am going to manage it, but I must whisper it to you, just as I do to all the rest of ourt friends. You see, we must be very , very careful about this plan, or it might fail."

And then Doctor Rabbit went up and whispered quite a while in the little lame cottontail's ear. And every now and then they would both laugh right out loud, because it was so funny.

Finally Doctor Rabbit said aloud, "Yes, you may come over to my home in the big tree

just as soon as it is dark. I will take you along, and you shall see what happens just the same as the rest of us." And Doctor Rabbit went away, hoppity, hoppity, hoppity, down through the gorge and back into the Big Green Woods again.

He kept right on hopping along until he came near the Rocky Den. Then he hid himself and watched for a time, but he could see no sign of Slinky the Wolf. So Doctor Rabbit went down to the Murmuring Brook. He looked everywhere for Snappy Turtle, but could not see him. There was a nice sandy place there, covered with beautiful shells, and Doctor Rabbit went hopping about among the shells, turning them over and looking at them, just because they were so lovely and shiny. Once or twice he dug a very pretty pink one from the sand. Presently he came to one that was almost buried in the sand. Jut the top of the shell showed.

"This shell is rather dark on top, Doctor Rabbit said, "but perhaps it has a pretty color on the inside. I'll just dig it up."

So he began digging the wet sand away. After a while he said, "Well! This is a pretty big shell, but I'll soon have it out. I'll just keep on digging."

All of a sudden he sprang back several feet in a terrible fright. The shell had suddenly come to life and scrambled out on the sand. It was Snappy Turtle, who had buried himself in the sand!

"He! he! he!" How Snappy did laugh at Doctor Rabbit for getting so badly frightened. "What's the matter, Doctor Rabbit?" he chuckled.

"Snappy," said Doctor Rabbit, breathing easier, "you almost deserve a spanking, but I'll just wait until it's my turn!" Then how they bother laughed! Doctor Rabbit whispered a warning, "Sh! Have you seen Old Slinky go into his den recently, Snappy?"

"Yes," replied Snappy. "I saw him crawl into his den just a little while before you came up. He was laughing and talkng to himself about a rabbit he said he was going to get somewhere tonight. From what he said, I think the poor rabbit is fast somewhere in a log, but Slinky has to wait until tonight when it is dark, before he can find the log. And he seems to be counting on Red Top the Woodpecker to tell him where the log is.

15
GETTING READY

All the rest of the day Doctor Rabbit went about the Big Green Woods whispering his secret to his little friends and telling them what to do that night. He told them that when it was quite dark they should come to a certain place near the Deep River.

"Come to the Blue Grass," Doctor Rabbit told them, and every one of them knew just where that was. There was a beautiful patch of blue grass, and right in the center of it stood a great, spreading walnut tree. It was

quite the largest tree in the Big Green Woods and Doctor Rabbit and his friends used to go under the big tree and play on the blue grass. Sometimes the boys put their clothes there when they went in swimming. Then Doctor Rabbit would hide and laugh.

Not far from this beautiful walnut tree - in fact, quite close to it - the ground sloped down to the Deep River. It was a steep slope, too. It was so steep that Doctor Rabbit had never run down over it as fast as he could, becuase he was afraid he might go so fast he couldn't stop and would run right into the Deep River. Of course, Doctor Rabbit can swim if he has to, just like any other rabbit, but just like any other rabbit he does not like to go into the water unless it is necessary.

Well, when Doctor Rabbit had told all his little friends where they were to come, he ran as fast as he could to the Blue Grass. There he stood looking down toward the Deep River.

Now, Doctor Rabbit seemed to be looking merely at the Deep River, but he wasn't. He was looking at a big raft that had been lying just at the edge of the water for a long time. There was a big log nailed to the raft. Doctor Rabbit looked at the log and said, "If something should hit that log pretty hard, then the raft would be pushed away from the bank. I'm sure it would. And that's just what is going to happen!"

There was great excitement all over the Big Green Woods as evening came on. All the little creatures hoped that the night and darkness would come quicky, so that they might see how Doctor Rabbit was going to drive Slinky the Black Wolf from the Big Green Woods.

They all knew aboutit, of course. Jim Crow nd Blue Jay and Red top had told all their feathered friends and Chatty Red Squirrel and Jack Rabbit and Dopctor Rabbit

had spread the news among the little furry creature.

When darkness finally came, the little creatures came from every direction. O.Possum and Mandy Possum came out of their home and started toward the Deep River. O/Possum was in a terrible hurry and forgot all about Mandy Possum until she called out, "O.Possum! I'm not a race horse, sir! You just wait for me!"

"My!" exclaimed O.Possum, as he stopped and turned to wait. "Why, Mandy, I thought maybe you were ahead of me. Why can't you hurry as fast as I do, Mandy? I'm all worked up about Doctor Rabbit's scheme. I don't want to miss any of it!"

And O.Possum started on again, and in spite of himself he kept getting afarther and farther ahead of Mandy. After a while, in his haste, and because he was not watching where he was going, O.Possum stepped on a sticker, and he yelled so loud that Mandy was

frightened. But when she came up and found it was nothering but a sticker he had stepped on, she was disgusted. She pulled the sticker out of O. Possum's foot and said:

"O.Possum, you've got to stay right beside me all the rest of the way!"

And O.Possum did. He said he had found that when Mandy Possum talked that way it was high time he minded what she said, so he stayed right beside her while they hurried along toward the Blue Grass.

16
THE PLAN BEGINS TO WORK

When all the little creatures of the Big Green Woods had come to the Blue Grass near the Deep River, they heard Dopwny Screech Owl call out from a limb of the walnut tree just overhead:

"Doctor Rabbit is in the hollow log and Slinkhy the Wolf is in there too. Red Top showed Slinky where the log was, and Slinky is there now, trying to get Doctor Rabbit and make a meal of him!"

"Doctor rabbit!" they all shouted in surprise and alarm. "Why," said Ray coon, "we thought Doctor Rabbit was as safe as anything, and the he was about to drive Old Slinky clear away from the Big Green Woods!"

"Why, this is dreadful news! cried Mandy Possum. And then suddenly tjey a;ll remembered what Doctor Rabbit had told them, and they understood that Doctor Rabbit knew exactly what he was doing.

And Downy Screech Owl began chuckling. "Don't you trouble yourself aot Doctor Rabbit." je saod. "Now come right along with me, and I show you where they are."

"But, Downy, you might lead us right up to old Slinky bedore we see him," exclaimed O. Possum fearfully.

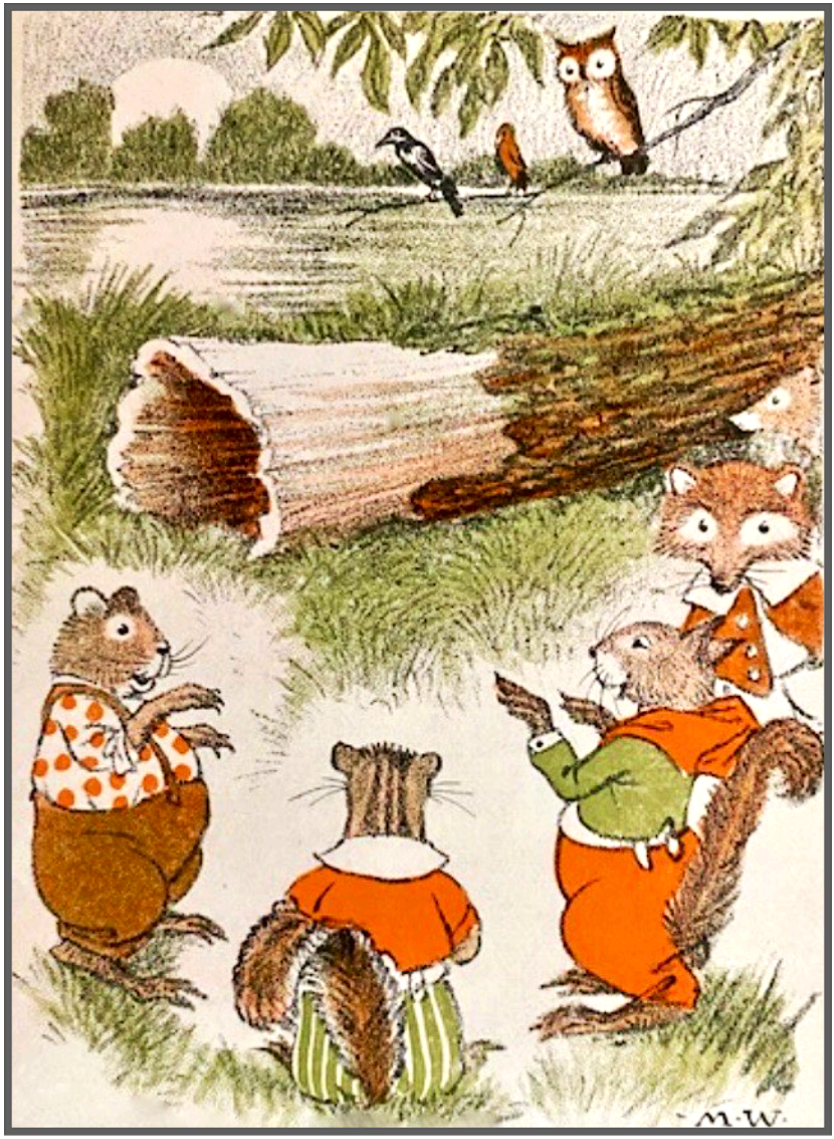
But Downy Screech Owl only laughed. "Never you fear about that, Brother Possum," she said gaily. "Slinky, buy this time, is where he can't harm anyody. Come right along!"

So, with Downy leading the way, they started out through the moonlit woods. Tjhey had not gone far when suddenly Doctor Rabbit's voice was heard, crying. "I'm fast in this log! And Slinky the Wolf is going to get me! Help me out! Some one help me out!"

Then the voice of Slinly was heard in the log. "Yes," he said, "this log is pretty small for me, but I think I'll get you, Mr. Fat Rabbit. I'm getting a little nearer to you all the time. Yes, it's pretty hard work for me, but I certainly am getting nearer to you. I know you can't get out at the other end, and so buy and by I'll have you!"

Then, while Doctor Rabbit kept crying out as if he were in terror, and whild old Slinky was laughing, "Ho! ho! ho!" and while he was working himself farther and farther into the log, little Downy Screech Owl said:

"You see, my friends, it's just as Doctor Rabbit told most of you. He knows all about the log he's in, because he has run into it many



"Doctor Rabbit is in the hollow log."

a time when Yappy chased him. And one day Doctor Rabbit got out at the small end of the log and Yappy was caught fast, and it took him all day to get out!

"And" Downing continued, "that made Doctor Rabbit think of this fine scheme. It seems there is a place im the log which is so narrow that if a big animal like Slinky works his body through, it's very, very hard for him to get out again. And that's why Doctor Rabbit is staying in the log now. He can scamble out of the little hole at the other end any time he likes, but he's just staying in there crying and going on to maie old Slinky work himself in until he's stuck fast. Doctor Rabbit isn't in any danger. Indeed he's not. He's just a little to clever for old Slinky the Wolf."

"My goodness! exclaimed Ray Coon, and his teeth chaered, he was so frightened. "I don't see how Doctor Rabbit will get rid of Sliny after all. For, even if the old villain does

get fast in the log, he'll get out again," chuckled Downy Screech Owl, "but he won't get out where you think he will, Ray Coon. Indeed he won't!"

And just then they all began speaking at once. "Listen! listen! listen! Old Slinky is fast in the log right now, and he knows it! Just hear him roar!"

17
A ROLLING PARTY

As the little Creatures stood listening they heard old Slinky the Wolf yelling for all he was worth. When Slinky was good and tight in the log, Doctor Rabbit jumped lightly from the other end to the ground. "Ha! ha! ha!" shouted Doctor Rabbit. "You are the one who is stuck fast, old Slinky! Just get out if you can!"

Slinky was terribly angry when he found that Doctor Rabbit was out of the log and that the scheme had all been fixed up for him.

He struggled as hard as he could to back out, but he found himself in exactly the same bad fix Yappy had found himself in one day. He was wedged in there tight and could not get out. My, how Slinky did yelp and roar!

He was terribly angry even at the log, but of course that did him no good. He howled, "You let loose of me, old log, or I'll tear you into a thousand pieces!" And then he struggled and wiggled and bit and scratched, and he kept snarling and shouting what he would do when he got out.

But it was just as Doctor Rabbit was sure it would be. Slinky could not get out of that log for a long time. In fact, it might, and probably would, take Slinky all night and part of the next morning or even longer to work himself free. So Doctor Rabbit shouted right out loud.

"Come on my friends! Help me roll this log with old Slinky in it down to the Blue Grass near the Deep River!"

And it was then that they saw what Doctor Rabbit was going to do with Slinky Black Wolf. That is, they saw a part of what he was going to do. But it was not quite as they supposed, for they thought simply that Doctor Rabbit was going to push the log to the Blue Grass, and then let it roll down the sloping bank, and drown Slinky Black Wolf in the Deep River.

But Doctor Rabbit would not do this. No, he was too kind, and besides he knew of a much better way and a more kindly way to get rid of Slinky. And it was a wonderfully interesting way too.

The little creatures were all excited when Doctor Rabbit told them to help him roll the log with Slinky the Wolf in it to the sloping back of the Deep River.

"Hurrah!" shouted Ray Coon. I'll help you roll him, Doctor Rabbit!"

"And so will I!" cried O.Possum.

"And I will too!" Mandy Possum shouted gladly.

"And so will I! And so will I!" all the others began shouting at once. Jack Rabbit went right up to the log and stood on his hind feet and began pushing. And instantly every one of them began pushing, and all at once the log began to roll toward the Blue Grass.

All the time they were rolling the log, Slinky was yelling and struggling and saying what he was to do to Doctor Rabbit when he got out. "I'll see about things when I get out of here, and I'll be out in about two minutes!" shouted Slinky.

"He means in about two days!" laughed Doctor Rabbit, in great glee.

"Yes, he means in about two weeks!" cried O.Possum and then how they did laugh! It was pretty fine to have old Slinky the Wolf in that log, and they paid no further attention to his shouting. Doctor Rabbit said cheerfully, "All right my friends. Now just roll the log right

here where I stand. That's right," he laughed, when they had rolled the log right to the edge of the Blue Grass, where the river bank sloped down to the old raft.

Then they all got behind the log, and Doctor Rabbit shouted, "Now! Let's all push together!"

They did, and with Slinky the Wolf in it, away went that log rolling faster and faster down the sloping bank, until plunk. . . it bounced on the raft and hit the other log lying there.

Then the very thing happened that Doctor Rabbit expected. When the log Slinky was in bounced on to the raft and hit the other log, this knocked the old raft away from the bank and out into the Deep River.

Slowly but surely the big raft floated farther and farther out into the Deep River. Farther and farther out it went, until it was way out in the middle of the stream.

Then down, down the river went the big raft, with the log and old Slinky on it!

18

WAITING FOR JIM CROW

Doctor Rabbit and all his little friends stood on the Blue Grass on the bank of the Deep River and watched the raft go floating down with Slinky the Black Wolf.

It was a beautiful moonlight night, and they could see the raft plainly as it floated farther and farther away.

Jim Crow was sitting up in the big walnut tree, when suddenly Doctor Rabbit called up to him.

"Jim Crow, fly down to the raft and ride along with it. Then you can tell us how far the

They stood and watched the raft!

raft goes, and what happens to Slinky!"

"Caw! Caw! Caw!" sang out Jim Crow. "Indeed I will, Doctor Rabbit! I'll be glad to. Good-bye until I see you again."

And Jim Crow flapped his big black wings, and away he flew out over the moonlit river until he came to the floating raft. Jim Crow flew down and lighted on the raft, while Doctor Rabbit and his little friends stood on the river bak and watched.

The moon shone brightly on the water, and they stood and watched the raft until it floated so far it looked like a small, dark speck on the river. Then it passed from sight.

"Now," exclaimed Doctor Rabbit, "we can romp and play in the Big Green Woods tonight and have all the fun we wish. I don't think that Jim Crow will come back before morning."

"My!" said Ray Coon. "I shall certainly be glad when Jim Crow comes flying back up the river tomorrow and tells us just what

happened to Slinky the Wolf. Surley, Old Slinky will never come back here."

"I'm sure he will not," said Doctor Rabbit positively. "Now let's run and play," he continued, "and in the morning we will all come here to the Blue Grass and wait for Jim Crow to come back.

So they played all over the Big Green Woods. They ran and laughed and shouted and had a lovely time the whole night long. Then when morning came they all went to the Blue Grass to wait for Jim Crow.

They waited and waited, but Jim did not come. They waited until noon, and still no Jim Crow. They waited until it began to get dark, and still Jim Crow was nowhere in sight.

"Never you mind, friends," Doctor Rabbit said cheerfully. "Jim Crow will come back. . . I'm sure of that. Let's go right on having a splended time again tonight, and just as soon as it's light well all be here again"

Again they played until morning, then they all went to the Blue Grass on the Deep River bank.

It was just a little after the sun came up, and Doctor Rabbit was looking down the river. Suddenly he shouted, "There he comes! There he comes! It's Jim Crow! It's Jim Crow!"

And sure enough, they all looked, and there was Jim Crow down the river, flappng his wings slowly and comiing nearer and nearer.

19

JIM CROW TELLS HIS STORY

Nearer and nearer came Jim Crow, flapping his black wings over the broad Deep River. Then, when he was just even with them, he turned and flew straight toward Doctor Rabbit and all the other little wood folk waiting on the grassy slope.

"Hi, there, Doctor Rabbit!" shouted Jim Crow. "You are looking mighty fine this morning! Did you think I was never coming back? And Jim Crow lighted on the grass near Doctor Rabbit.

"What became of Slinky the Black Wolf?" Doctor Rabbit asked, and they all listened with all their ears for Jim Crow to speak.

Jim Crow raised his wings once or twice and put them down again so they would be more comfortable. Then he said, "I am pretty tired, friends, for I have flown a long, long way. Well, I'll tell you just what happened. You saw me, of course, fly out and light on the raft, and then you saw the raft float on down the river and out of sight. All night I sat on the raft, as it floated down, and all night I could hear Slinky working to get out of the log.

"I was on the watch and ready to fly in an instant, because I expected him to get out most any time. Along toward morning I walked over to the edge of the raft and got a drink from the river. There was half an ear of corn lying there, so I got my breakfast too.

"All that day went by, and still Slinky could not get out of the log. But I knew he thought he would before long, for I heard him

say once, 'But just the same I'm getting a start anyway. Yes, I'm working back now in pretty good shape.' Then I watched closer than ever, and in the second night he did get out. Yes, sir, he came out of the log backward, and I hid behind the other log and peeped around at him. He was the most surpriserd wolf you ever heard of when he saw he was on that raft and floating away out in the middle of the Deep River.

"Well! well! well!" exclaimed old Slinky, "am I dreaming, or am I not!' Then he walked over to the edge of the raft and put one paw in the water.

"No! I'm not dreaming," he said. "this is the river, as sure as I am alive, and here I am away out in the middle of it! Then he took a big drink and said, "I'm going to jump off this raft and swim to shore. "That's exactly what I'm going to do. And then I'm going back to the Green Mountains as fast as my legs can carry me. I'm lucky to be alive - I surely am."

"But just about the time Slinky said that, something surprising happened. Right ahead of us there was a big dam across the river, and the raft was right close to the dam and ready to go over before Slinky saw it. I flapped my wings and flew into the air, but Slinky didn't have time to jump off. I flew up just in time, for the next instant I saw the raft go over the big dam with Slinky the Wolf."

20
SLINKY THE BLACK WOLF DECIDES NEVER TO COME BACK

The dam across the river was a big one," contined Jim Crow, "and the force of the water made the raft shoot right out into the air. Slinky was thrown out ever so far as the raft went over the dam. He jumped, too, and I suppose that made him go farther still.

"Well the water below the dam for quite a distance was all white with foam, because it ran so swiftly there, and it was into this deep, swift water that Slinky was thrown. Old Slinky went

clear under the water when he struck, and I said to myself, "That's the last of Old Slinky the Wolf.' But it wasn't. No, sir, he came up and began swimming toward the bank for all he was worth. As he swam he opened his mouth every now and then and panted, because the river was sift and he was having a hard time of it. But finally he landed a good way down the river and walked up the bank, where he stood looking back. My, the water was just dripping from him, from head to tail, and he was looking like a wet rat, except that he was so big. then he shook himself and made the water fly in every direction.

"Ho! ho! ho!" he shouted, I'm safe at last. I'm safe and free, and I'll never leave my home again! It was that cleaver Doctor Rabbit that worked that scheme on me, I'm certain about it. No wonder I heard them call him Doctor Rabbit! I shall never go within fifty miles of him again! No, indeed! I'm free!" And away he ran through the woods toward his home, laughing

and shouting, and as I left him I heard him sing as he ran:

"I'm the big black wolf from the
Mountains Green
A wanderer far from home.
But I'm going back, yes I'm going back
And never more I'll roam!"

"Fine! fine! fine! shouted all the little creatures together, as Jim Crow finished his story. Then Mandy Possum mounted a stump and said"

"Doctor Rabbit is the cleverest rabbit that ever was. Let's have him sit up on this stump while we dance around him and tell him how very fine we think he is!"

So Doctor Rabbit got up on the stump to please them, and he sat and chuckled while they danced around him and sang. This is what they sang:

"Hurrah for Doctor Rabbit!
He's big and fine and grand:
He's always good and jolly,
And the best friend in the land.

An old black wolf came to the woods,
And thought that he would stay,
But Doctor Rabbit formed a scheme
That drove him far away.

Yes, hurrah for Doctor Rabbit!
He's big and fine and grand;
He's always good and jolly,
And the best friend in the land."

THE END

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